doing a lot of things.

What I am going to propose today is that we have sort of like a continuing resolution so my birthday can extend from the 14th through the 21st, to give you all a chance to give me a gift. I do not want this to be a partisan affair. We should be bipartisan in this effort in every way. I do not want you to worry about the gift ban either, or about the fact that I missed your birthday and did not give you a gift. If you all start the charity, then I can respond. I want to thank you for this opportunity. Please keep me in your minds and your thoughts.

REPUBLICAN PARTISANSHIP WILL WRECK THE REPUBLIC

(Mr. PETERSON of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PETERSON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I want to talk about two subjects this morning. First, I am outraged over the Speaker's and the chairman of the Committee on Rules' declaration that they intend to gridlock action on the Ethics Committee recommendation to close the Gingrich loophole to prevent misuse of congressional offices for personal gain. This is a serious attempt to muzzle the Ethics Committee, and it must be stopped.

The second, I am also outraged, grossly disappointed, that last night this House could not put politics aside and send a clear message to our troops that they have our unequivocal support, our troops in Bosnia, and recognize their sacrifices in the service of our country. That is very, very sad. This kind of partisanship will ultimately wreck this Republic.

SAVINGS WILL PRESERVE THE AMERICAN DREAM

(Mr. METCALF asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. METCALF. Mr. Speaker, new estimates from CBO project an additional \$135 billion in revenue over the next 7 years. That is very good news, but those estimates are based mostly on gains resulting from optimism all around this Nation regarding our movement toward a balanced budget.

Now the bad news. As soon as the word was made public, old politics reared its ugly head: "Spend that money, spend that money." That is the old way. The problem, if we start spending this new, imaginary money, confidence in a balanced budget will drop and the money will not be there. The lesson: Do not spend that imaginary money. If we do our job, the money will be a bonus to our children by lowering the debt. We must beat back the old politics, save that money,

and protect the American dream for our children.

POLLS SHOW AMERICANS RE-SPOND TO THE PRESIDENT'S RE-SPONSIBLE LEADERSHIP

(Mr. RICHARDSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RICHÁRDSON. Mr. Speaker, everyone is talking about signals and messages, but here are some facts and results from the latest New York Times CBS poll:

President Clinton has emerged from the Federal budget standoff with his highest public ratings in nearly 2 years, while House Republicans have lost much of the goodwill they enjoyed after their sweep of Congress last year

Today President Clinton signed an American-led peace plan on Bosnia in Paris. Under his leadership, American-led peace initiatives in Northern Ireland and the Middle East are flourishing. Somehow, the other side does not want to give him credit for these achievements, but the American people are. The other side wants to shut the Government down, but the President and Senator Dole want to achieve a balanced budget.

Mr. Speaker, the American people are responding to responsible Government, and not to politics.

THE PRESIDENT SHOULD JOIN RE-PUBLICANS IN BALANCING THE BUDGET

(Mr. CHABOT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks)

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, 25 days ago, President Clinton promised in writing to sign a balanced budget agreement by the end of this year. It is now December 14. How much longer do the American people have to wait? Last week, the President vetoed the Balanced Budget Act of 1995. Last week, the President said "no" to a brighter future for our children and for our grandchildren.

I would like to read something that this same President said back in March 1994, and how he said it: "Why, then, are we confronted with an opposition party that just stands up and says "No, no, no, no, no, no, no, no, no?" Mr. Speaker, it is time for the President to ask himself that same question: Why is he saying no, no, no, no, no, no, no, to balancing the budget? Come on, Mr. President. Join us in balancing the budget

OUR SPENDING MUST REFLECT BETTER PRIORITIES FOR AMERICA

(Mr. WATT of North Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WATT of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, sometimes we complicate

things so much here and we lose perspective, that when we are talking about a budget, it is about setting priorities. It is just like our budgets at home. What we spend our money on reflects our values and our priorities.

As we proceed with these negotiations that are going on, I hope we will keep that in mind and reject the priorities that were set out in the budget reconciliation bill that the House and Senate passed and the President vetoed. Those priorities are mean-spirited: more expensive, less accessible, and lower quality health care; less commitment to education; higher taxes for working people; less nutrition; less immunization, less protection, and more poverty for children; less safe drinking water, more air pollution, more exposure to toxic waste: higher State and local taxes; less taxes for the rich at the expense of the poor. We ought to reject those priorities and set some better priorities for our country.

REPUBLICAN TAX CUTS GO TO WORKING AMERICANS

(Mr. KNOLLENBERG asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, contrary to what the gentleman just said and contrary to what we have been hearing from the Democratic side, the tax cuts, all those billions of dollars, \$245 billion, are not for the wealthiest Americans. In fact, 89 percent, almost 90 percent, of the \$500 per child tax credit, that is the largest tax cut in our budget, goes to families making less than \$75,000 a year. Over the next 7 years, this pro-family credit will increase the take-home pay of the average American by \$7,000. I do not know about your district, but \$7,000 is a fair amount of money in mine. In Washington that may not sound like much money, but to the working parents of families who have children, they need that. That is a lot to them. It may help them on their mortgage payments, it may help them save for a college education. They can spend it as they will. It is their money in the first place. It should not have been taken from their

Mr. Speaker, we must put Uncle Sam on a diet and balance the budget, but we must allow working families to keep more of what they earn.

One other point. Balancing the budget and cutting taxes are not mutually exclusive. The Federal Government spends too much money, not because it taxes too little.

THE SPEAKER'S BALANCED BUDG-ET PLAN SHOULD INCLUDE VET-ERANS

(Mr. OLVER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)